



GRAFTON
Massachusetts

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Trust Minutes, January, 2019

1 message

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Tue, Feb 5, 2019 at 3:18 PM

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TOWN OF GRAFTON

GRAFTON MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER

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TRUSTEES FOR SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MEMORIALS

MINUTES

January 9, 2019

The monthly meeting of the GRAFTON TRUSTEES FOR SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MEMORIALS was convened on January 9, 2019, in Room E at Memorial Hall.

Meeting was convened at 1010.

Present: Myself, Bill Drago, Bill Cutler, Dave Callahan

Absent were Mr. Sherman, Justin Sousa(?) and Deb Gosselin(?)

Guests.....present were Andy Kjellberg, Carmen Pagliaro (new commander American Legion Post #92)

Absent were Stanley Stopyra (commander VFW Post 1497..military funeral)

1. RE Agenda Item #1:

As Justin was not here, Dave Callahan will inform him of our request to order two gross (288) new flags for Memorial Day some time in February. Stating that we have 4 cases of new flags here now and about 1,000 +/- flags in good shape recovered from our graves in 2018, that we can place this year.....he also stated that we have about 40 new flag holders left from last year (I took 32 of what Justin bought last year to finish off what was missing in Riverside Cemetery, last year)

2.

Carmen P. noted that he was disappointed that we were wasting money buying over 300 markers that needed to be replaced within 5 years due to theft or deterioration, stating that we should be buying some made out of something stronger than plastic, perhaps aluminum or white metal that would stand up better than plastic, but not have any value to individuals wanting to steal them for scrap. Discussion followed amongst others present with no solution..... Andy K stated that we need approx 100 for new burials in Fairview, Riverside, Pine Grove and St Philip Cemeteries each year, 75 to replace those markers

that are either stolen or deteriorated by elements (remember that before we replaced the missing 887, our inventory showed that we have over 120 total plastic markers already in place.....and 1/5 of the 900 that will deteriorate in the next 5 years, to have on hand so we do not have to approach the town for 900 at one time in the future.....about 180....

that's $100+75+180=355$ per year.....we'll settle for 300...Note:we bought 75 last year...

which we did not use all of because I have not added any new graves because I have no new death certificate copies since mid 2017.

3. On flag holders.....if successful in getting Old Oak Cemetery assigned to a town Boy Scout Eagle Project (or Girl Scout Gold Project), we'll need about 90 plastic flag holders for graves there without a marker.

4. Discussion followed where I informed those present that prior to Justin, Adam Costello worked out a procedure with town clerk that when she got a death certificate for a veteran buried in Grafton cemetery, that she'd make a copy of it and leave it in Veteran's Agent mail folder for his info and file the original. Current processclerk files the original in one of 9 books and if I want the info, I have to go look for it in these books.....certificates filed alphabetically, not by date of death.....Bill D will talk to town clerk.....for comments

RE Death Certificates of cremated veterans section of Item #1, we'll add this to our February agenda for resolution.

RE Item #2....of the some 300 flags recovered from St Philip Cemetery on 1/1/19,

about 100 are reusable and another 100 or so the flags are still good but the sticks are too swollen to fit into the flag holders so Post 92 will give them away to townspeople that want one. The other 100 or so will be respectfully burned in American Legion 2019 ceremony.

5. Discussion with all participating.....Bill D stated that town might allow us to keep flags up until July 15 from July 5th (two weeks longer ???) Dave Callahan stated that St Philip

had communicated that they'd allow flags up until Christmas as long as we took them down. Andy K stated that when the flag sticks swelled in the flag holders, that it took he, his wife and son Jason over 10 hours to recover 300+ flags, with many individual flags taking more than 10 minutes to retrieve with efforts not to break the rings on the flag holders. All agree that we should agree on a common date to remove flags in all cemeteries.

6. Discussion.....if veteran has three markers...say WWII, Korea and Vietnam he should only get one flag.....not three.....one vet in grave.

If grave has head stone(family name) only and more than one vet in grave, one flag per vet.

If grave has a head stone and one or more flat foot stones,

1st vet named on the headstone gets a flag at the headstone all others get a flag at their respective foot stone or....

all the flags are put with the headstone (choice of the one putting up the flags)

If all footstones and no head stone, flags at individual foot stones

If vet's flag holder is not a plastic one, try to put his flag into that holder.

If while placing flags, a flag holder is determined to be faulty, (it cannot hold a flag), installer reports this to post commander for resolution.

7. RE item #3 Dave Callahan reports that Justin did research for Vietnam War vets tha belong on our plaque.....283 eligible.....174 there now.

Carmen P. asks if vets, that were in-country Vietnam,Thailand,Laos, Cambodia, etc) , could be identified on the plaque vs the Vietnam Era vets that were not deployed to combat (Germany, Japan, USA, etc) between 1962 and 1975

8. Discussion....how to add the 109 missing vets to the existing plaque

if new plaque.....bronze raised lettering too expensive

other metals.....other lettering options.....

RE Item #5

Bill D noted that cannon wheels at Sampson Square in South Grafton

are mounted but cannon itself must be moved some 2 inches on its cement pad

Carmen P notes that he has a friend that cleans gravestone and perhaps monuments.....he'll contact him and ask if he'd give us a quote on our monument cleaning project.

Bill D informed us that as soon as guy at Tender Touch gets his new tank, that he'd give a quote also.

Meeting adjourned by Andy K 2nd by Bill Cutler.....no comments.....11:07 am

P.S. I sub taught in Westborough Schools (Mill Pond Elementary, Gibbons Middle and High School several years.... if you can, please wish Dr Ryan (Phd) at the high school...well from me

Subsequent: Mr. Sherman resigned from the trust due to scheduling conflict with job.

Meeting adjourned at 1130.

v/r,

Kenneth B. Sherman, Secretary